

Refuge: **Ankeny NWR**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

Project Name: **Riparian Restoration at Ankeny Nature Center Site**

Project Description (20 Points):

1. **Invasive Species Treatment, Control, and/or Restoration:** The project involves vegetative rehabilitation of a creek that runs alongside the site designated for the Ankeny NWR Nature Center. The Nature Center is a partnership project, to be built by the Salem Audubon Society, ultimately to become a Service facility. Currently, the project is in the design phase under contract with an architect. The Center will serve as a key focal area for environmental education, and interpretive programs.

The site is currently occupied by non-native grasses, an 11-acre wetland, and a creek. The entire site (excepting building and road locations) is identified for restoration. This proposal deals only with the riparian portion. The borders of the creek are occupied with Himalayan (Armenian) blackberry, an aggressive shrubby invasive. Restoring native vegetation will support riparian goals under the CCP.

The objective is to re-establish native riparian vegetation with ~50% cover of shrubs and 25-40% cover of overstory trees, across a 70' width. The following site preparation and planting actions would occur:

- Conduct 4 mowings to break up and weaken blackberries (heavy equipment certified volunteer)
- Along half the site, conduct herbicide treatments post-mowing, with suitable approved product (staff)
- Create cuttings from nearby riparian stands of willow and ash. Plant these and plugs of other native shrubs and trees, including cottonwood, red-osier dogwood, blue elderberry, Indian plum, etc. (volunteers / students)
- Continue maintenance as needed to assist growth/ establishment of plantings (volunteers and/or staff)

2. **Public Outreach and/or Environmental Education:** The project will be conducted with heavy equipment trained resident volunteers housed at W.L. Finley NWR, local community volunteers, and students. The project will promote community involvement and environmental education in the spirit of the purpose of the Nature Center. Community volunteers and students will assist with cuttings and plantings. Student and community involvement will build ownership for habitat restoration and for the Nature Center. The project will be an on-going teaching tool at the Nature Center, and will stimulate community pride. Ultimately the habitat produced by the project will significantly contribute to the viewing and educational opportunities at the site.

Creation of a display about the restoration process for the eventual Nature Center (prepared by students) is a desired additional outcome. This would demonstrate the capacity of students and the community to assist with positive environmental change and inspire others to become involved in similar efforts in the future.

3. **Survey, Inventory, and/or Post-treatment Monitoring:**

The project will capitalize upon its nexus to the Nature Center by linking monitoring with environmental education. Students will monitor the site for vegetative and wildlife response prior, during, and post project completion. Students will measure vegetation species composition, frequency, and cover, as well as conducting a wildlife census at several transects within the treatment area. Students will also have the opportunity to compare the outcomes of different site treatments (as described above).

Friends Groups and other Volunteers (10 Points): The Friends of the Willamette Valley Complex and Salem Audubon Society support the project and will supply volunteers for taking cuttings, planting natives, and assisting students. The neighborhood association will be solicited for volunteers. Information and project updates will be distributed via various newsletters, reaching 400 homeowners, school families, and various community members.

Other Partners (10 Points): Teachers at Western Oregon University and Jefferson School District have expressed interest in the project and have committed to providing students.

Criteria for Project Success (10 Points):

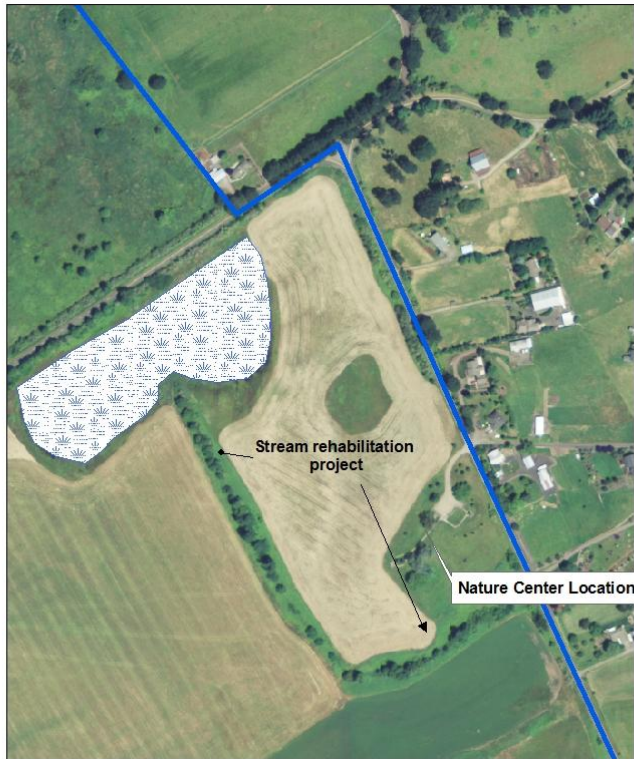
Number of volunteers engaged: 25 adults
Number of students reached: 140
Riparian acres restored: 4.2

Percent Infestation controlled: 90
Riparian streambank miles restored: ½ mile
Outreach population: 400 landowners; 140+ families

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS - PROJECT PROPOSALS 2014



Budget:

Volunteer housing / support	\$ 1, 500
Volunteer recruitment and training	\$ 2,500
Herbicide	\$ 1,000
Equipment, supplies, fuel.....	\$ 3,000
Plants	\$ 2,000
School bus transportation	\$ 3,000
Display	\$ 2,000
Total.....	\$ 15,000



Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge Riparian Restoration at Ankeny Nature Center Site

Legend

-  Ankeny Refuge Boundary
-  Marshes and Wetlands